THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the guidelines for uplinking News & Current Affairs TV channels issued on 26.3.2003, uplinking permission is being given to the news channels subject to compliance of conditions laid down in the guidelines which include 26 per cent foreign equity cap. Existing News & Current Affairs TV channels, already permitted to uplink by this Ministry are required to conform to these guidelines within a period of one year from the date of issue of these guidelines.

(d) to (f) The Ministry has prescribed policies for the broadcasting sector within the ambit provided by legislations like the Wireless & Telegraphy Act, Indian Telegraph Act and the Cable Television Networks Act. With the increasing entry to private players in the broadcasting sector, the need for a statutory broadcasting regulatory authority to monitor the implementation of polices and regulations has been recongnized. Consultations are going on with the stakeholders in the braodcasting sector on the form of such proposed Regulatory Authority.

(g) Permission to companies to uplink is given after ensuring compliance of all eligibility, criteria, including foreign investment norms.

High frequency studio of Doordarshan in Uttaranchal

†2807. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High frequency Doordarshan Studio is proposed to be set up in Uttaranchal during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, by when and its location;

(c) whether some of the Doordarshan Telecast centres presently operating in the State are also proposed to be upgraded; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has proposed to set up a TV studio centre (permanent set up) at Dehradun during the 10th Plan. Site for the above studio centre is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

yet to be made available to Doordarshan by the State Government. It would take about 3 years to complete the project, after the site is made available to Doordarshan by the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Women judges in family courts

2808. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women judges appointed in Family Courts *vis-a-vis* the Family Courts in the country;

(b) whether representation of the women judges in Family Courts is adequate;

(c) whether despite provision 13 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 to the contrary, parties to a suit or proceedings before a Family Court, are being represented by a lawyer;

(d) whether Government feel that the presence of lawyers in Family Courts would vitiate the ambience of the Court and thereby adversely affect the process of settlement; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to amend the Act and if so, the details of the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As per available information, out of 123 Family Courts in the country, there are 31 women Judges. Appointment of Family Courts is made by the State Government after consultation with the High Court subject to the qualification laid down in section 4(3)(a) of the Family Courts Act, 1984. However, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to take suitable steps for appointment of women Judges in the Family Courts.

(c) and (d) The Committee on Empowerment of Women have observed that lawyers were found appearing in Family Courts at Mumbai, Hyderabad and Jaipur. Pursuant to this observation of the Committee, the State Governments/UT Administrations, under intimation to Registrar Generals